

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5, 7-8, and 18-20 remain pending for further prosecution. Claims 5 and 7 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 6, and 9 have been cancelled.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-20 are allowed. Claims 5, and 7-8 are objected only because they are dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 5 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form to include all the claim elements of the base claim (there are no intervening claims). Claim 8 is dependent on claim 7.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 7-8, and 18-20 are allowable.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 6, and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,621,006 to Terry *et al.* ("Terry") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,039,043 to Hodge ("Hodge"). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Terry in view of Hodge as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,771,437 B1 to Willis ("Willis").

The Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections. Nevertheless, claims 1-4, 6, and 9 have been cancelled.

III. Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested. If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

It is believed that no fees are due; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Nixon Peabody LLP. Deposit Account No. 50-4181, Order No. 247080-000047USPT.

Respectfully submitted,

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